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Homemaker News

U.S.D.A. PRESS SERVICE OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND EXTENSION SERVICE

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No. 17-42

★ MAY 30 1942 ★

U. S. Department of Agriculture
April 15, 1942

GROW HERBS FOR FLAVOR, FUN, AND GARDEN TRIMMING

Aside from their hobby value and decorativeness in borders or rock gardens, savory herbs make a real contribution to wartime menus by adding flavor-variety to simple, home-grown foods, says _____.

Use sage, thyme, marjoram, lovage, rosemary, and summer savory to flavor meats, soups, gravies, and stuffings; anise and coriander on bread or in plain cakes; rose geranium in apple jelly and puddings; mint leaves for iced tea and other beverages, and mint sauce or jelly for lamb; dill for pickles, salads, and creamed meats and fish; basil for tomato soup, salad, and aspic; and other herbs in similar ways.

After the fresh leaves have been picked all summer from plants growing in the open, parsley, pot marjoram, rose geranium, spearmint, and chives may be planted in pots or window boxes indoors and grown in them all winter. Basil is an annual, which dies when seed is produced, but it will grow from seeds planted in pots or boxes indoors during the winter.

Leaves of many savory herbs also dry and store well. However, _____ points out, herbs should never be dried in bright sunshine because they will lose the volatile, aromatic oils which give them their distinctive flavors, and also may lose their color. Clean them well, hang in the shade or in a warm, dry, shaded room, and when they are thoroughly dry, crush the leaves and store in glass jars in a dark place.

For garden decoration, _____ suggests low basil, savories, and thyme be planted as edging for a grassy or brick walk. Taller flowering herbs like white anise, pink coriander, or yellow dill are effective behind low-growing species. Decorative herbs make good ground cover where grass is hard to grow, or on rocky soil or between shrubs. Wild thyme sometimes is planted between stones of a flagstone walk or terrace, and is very pleasing when its purple or magenta blossoms appear. Winter savory has glossy evergreen foliage and is another good ground cover.

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